In a U.S. study, parents reported that 85.2% of athletes who were ‘very involved’ in Special Olympics, improved their sports skills.

“I like to prove to myself that I can do it.”

— Athlete, United States

FAMILY PERCEPTIONS OF ATHLETE IMPROVEMENT

FAMILIES

Families also benefit from athletes participating in Special Olympics. A U.S. study found that:

- Parents and siblings of athletes felt Special Olympics provided opportunities for the family to come together, thereby strengthening family relationships. They also reported that it provided opportunities to connect with other families and be meaningfully involved in the community.
- Over half of athletes’ siblings (57%) felt that participation in Special Olympics had brought their family closer together.
- 52% of athletes’ siblings said that attending Special Olympics events gave them the opportunity to see and be proud of their brothers’ and/or sisters’ abilities and accomplishments.

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